

Oct 12 1964

# Black History Month CHURCH

6/11/00pm  
32 Living 0/0  
35 Co Vulture

Trans:  
Horn/orino  
Horn/chief  
Bible  
Hymnals  
Waters

Music - Just Above My Head  
I Hear Music in the Air

Singing for Freedom

3 original pieces

any # of standard / or contemporary piece  
by other artist

I'm searching for a bond between  
song / written word and artist

Devotion / Prayer / Testimony

↓  
The Song

↓  
Written  
Word

↓  
artist  
( )

Psychosis #2 Judge Not, That ye be not Judged

song This may be the last time

\*Proposal for BLK GAY PRIDE (WASH D.C.)



1930

1930

1930

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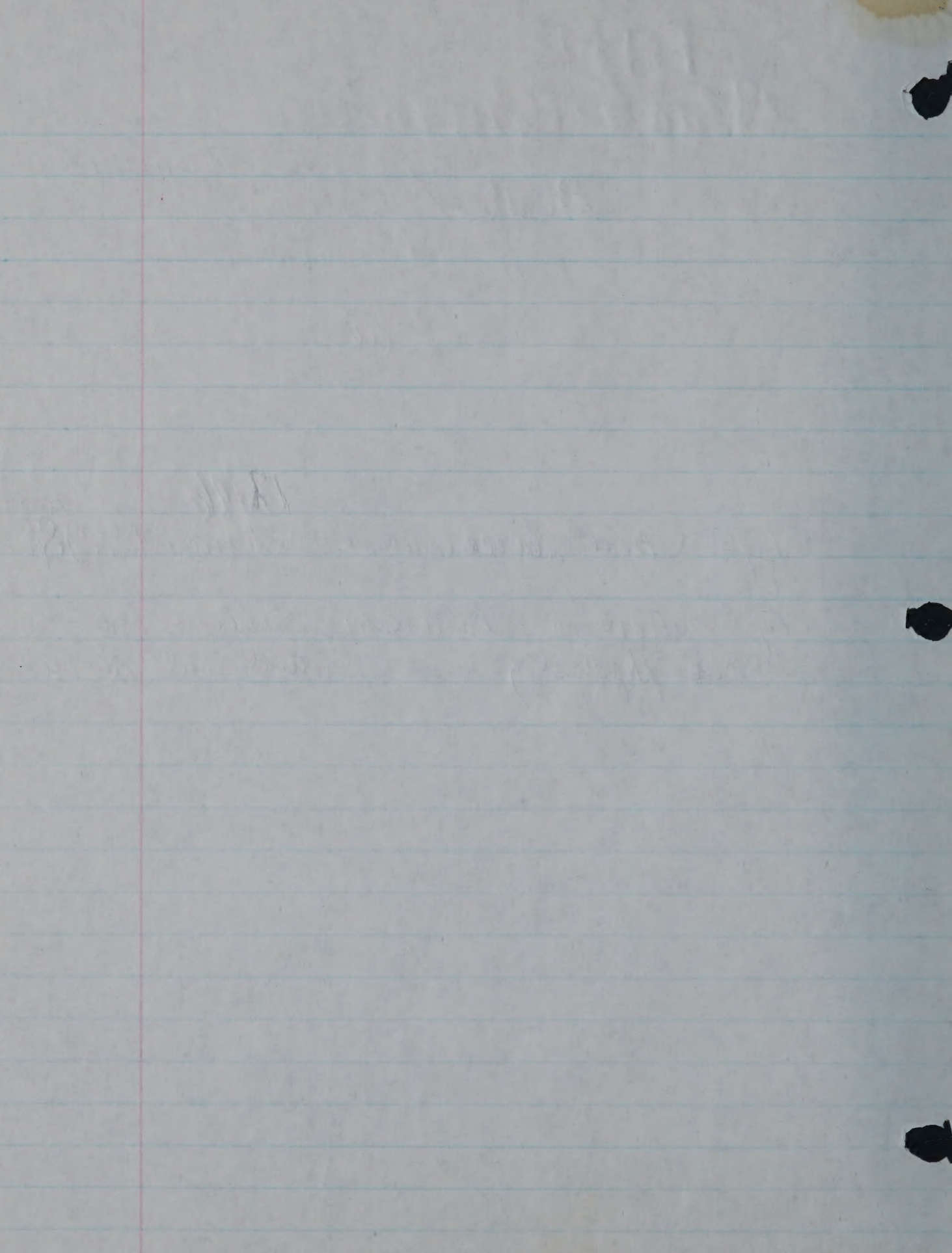
1930

1930



THE 9/96  
Black Church - a tribute  
a criticism  
Good / Bad / Come to your own  
Conclusions  
A dramatic look @

12/96  
Rhythm (Beat) Dance (movement) Lyric (spoken word) Spirit (Freedom)  
↓  
exploration of relationship between body  
~~psyche~~ physical, mind spiritual and music





June 09, 96

Everything that cause emotion to build, vibrate and multiply needs to be explained in some way. Hopefully in ways that force us to confront our issues head on and with determination for understanding and resolution. No matter how uncomfortable we may feel in dealing with one another, we must communicate on some basic levels just to ensure that we are not hurting one another with silence.







These look like big strong hands,  
but are they the same hands that  
held onto mother's skirt, that rushed  
through grand ma's kitchen with delight @  
all the treats they found there  
These look like my hands, are they  
the same hands







THE WESTIN PEACHTREE PLAZA  
Atlanta

<sup>26</sup>  
12/94

A Book of Poetry specifically written  
to my nieces - Erica, Elysha and  
Endia

Hopefully giving them a view of what's  
out here through my ~~mind's~~ eye.

Try to complete this by December 1<sup>st</sup> 1995

ERIKA

ELYSHA

ENDIA

EVERETE

art work by?

Cover design and concept  
for each book







# In a moment of Panic FEAR

I Decided to take the easy  
Road out

To Perpetrate

To speak of things  
I had no real knowledge of

~~To~~ Not claim my rightful place in  
the UNIVERSE

Accepting 2<sup>nd</sup> class existence as if  
it were my birthright

Allowing my brothers to place  
their feet on my throat  
Sneering @ me in disgust  
As if though we did not come forth  
from the same womb



In a moment of panic

FEAR

I decided to take the easy  
road out

To Perpetrate

To speak of things  
I had no real knowledge of

To not claim my rightful place in  
the UNIVERSE

Accepting 2<sup>nd</sup> class existence as it  
it were my birthright

Allowing my brothers to place  
their feet on my throat  
sneering @ me in disgust  
As if though we did not come from  
from the same womb



As if we were not shaped  
by some of the same experiences

In a moment of Panic

Fear.....

Would not let us embrace



As if we were not shaped  
by some of the same experiences

In a moment of panic.

Fear.....

Would not let us embrace.



## VENUS MAGAZINE

WHERE DO YOU WORSHIP AND WHY?

**REDEFINED FAITH UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** IS WHERE I WORSHIP. THE CHURCH HOLDS SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 2:30PM IN THE VIRGINIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH. THATS AT THE CORNER OF PONCE DE LEON PLACE AND VIRGINIA AVENUE. OUR PASTOR IS NONE OTHER THAN REVEREND S.F. MA HEE, AND OUR ASSISTANT IS BADALI JONES. BOTH ARE VERY DANAMIC AND BRING DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS TO AN ALREADY DIVERSE CONGREGATION. THEY ARE ALSO TWO OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY'S GREATEST ASSETS.

THIS CHURCH IS THE ONE PLACE THAT IVE FOUND THAT WELCOMES ME AS I AM; A BLACK GAY MAN, ACTIVIST, WRITER, PERFORMER, LIVING WITH AIDS. WE EMBRACE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE, SEX, CREED OR GENDER. THE CHURCH'S MOTTO IS "GOD IS LOVE AND LOVE IS FOR EVERYONE". WE MAKE THAT CLEAR EVERY SUNDAY. I AM AN OFFICER OF THE CHURCH (DEACON IN TRAINING). THIS AFFORDS ME A LOT OF CONTACT WITH THE CONGREGATION. I KNOW FIRST HAND THE GOOD WE ARE DOING IN THE NAME OF THE LORD GOD WHO IS IN EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. NOT FAR OFF, UNREACHABLE AND UNOBTAINABLE. UNITY'S DOCTRINE IS LIBERATION THEOLOGY WHICH FREES US FROM RELIGIOUS RHETORICS USED TO KEEP US QUIET, OBEDIENT, AND IN FEAR OF GOD. THE EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON SPIRITUALITY AS OPPOSED TO THE LITERAL INTERPRETATIONS OF WRITTEN SCRIPTURES.

TONY DANIELS

1995



WILLIAM S. BROWN AND WIFE

REPRESENTED BY THE CITY OF NEW YORK. THE CHURCH IS A  
WOMAN. THE CHURCH HOLDS SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE  
770 BROADWAY BAPTIST CHURCH. THAT IS THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE.  
ALTON B. BROWN, A VETERAN OF THE PASTOR, IS NOW THE PASTOR.  
REVEREND ALMA BROWN AND HER ASSISTANT, PASTOR BROWN, BOTH ARE  
VERY DYNAMIC AND BRING DIFFERENT SKILLS TO THE CHURCH.  
ALREADY DIVERSE CONGREGATIONS ARE ALSO PART OF THE CHURCH.  
AND THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S GREATEST ASSETS  
THE CHURCH IS THE ONE PLACE THAT I HAVE MET THAT WILL BE ME AS  
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AND WE BRING EACH OTHER FROM ALL WAYS OF THE RECREATION. THE  
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PLACED ON SPIRITUALITY AS OPPOSED TO THE LITERAL INTERPRETATION  
OF WRITTEN SCRIPTURES.

TONY DAVIS



RIDING ACROSS THE SKY ON A  
USED BROOM

CONFESIONS OF A <sup>DIRTY</sup> SOUTHERN WITCH  
POETRY, COMMENTARY and REFLECTION

Pay tribute to some great black gay men  
DONALD Woods

James Baldwin

ESSEX HEIMPHILL

Bayard Rustin?

Bernard Davis

Asotto Saint

Freddy Daniels

Marlon Riggs

RANDAL KENNEDY

Clarence Leroy Solomon Jr.

Trey Johnson

Anderson Griffith

Artist BARNES

Corey Acree

James Norwood

Melvin Dixon

Leon James

Overcoming the MARK of The Beast

Richard Richardson

Alexis  
Home 755-1610  
WK 750-4123

for what  
ENC







**PATRICIA SMITH**

## Please, God, let us know



GOD, IF YOU'RE NOT TOO busy running the rest of the world, could you drop down for a minute and straighten this mess out? Just let us know how you *really* feel about homosexuality — acceptance or abomination — then maybe the publisher and the pastor can call a halt to their budding holy war before things get really ugly.

One would be proved right. One would be wrong. And that would be the end of it. Maybe.

At first glance, the antagonists look a lot like allies. Thelma Sullivan is publisher of the New England Black Pages, the local version of a national network of telephone books that list black businesses exclusively. She began compiling the listings seven years ago as a public service.

Rev. Glenn Campbell is pastor of the Tree of Life Christian Worship and Service Center of Boston, a ministry that worships on Sunday evenings in the parish hall of the First Church of Roxbury. His congregation believes that the Bible is the word of God, but that it contains contradictions that have to be examined critically. Last September, seeking to strengthen his growing congregation and acknowledge its existence in the community at large, Rev. Campbell applied to include a listing for Tree of Life in the 1996 Black Pages. He requested that it be listed under the subheading "African-American Lesbian and Gay Ministry" or, barring that, "Nondenominational."

When the new book came out, Tree of Life wasn't in it. A perplexed Rev. Campbell phoned Sullivan and was told in no uncertain terms that the New England Black Pages — although touting itself as a publication dedicated to serving the entire black community — was not in the business of promoting homosexuality.

"I am Christian and my belief is that homosexual activity is against God's word," says the terse and unswerving Sullivan.

"He is misleading people by telling them that homosexuality is approved by God. There are people who are sick, people who are in homeless, helpless situations, some in desperate situations, and they don't need anybody feeding them untruths regarding God's word. This isn't a game. We're talking about their eternity."

Rev. Campbell's incredulous laugh occasionally booms as he counters Sullivan's stance. "This is the first fight my congregation has had since it's been in existence. It's truly a shame that we have to be against fighting discrimination from our own people. The black church is the foundation of the community, heterosexual or homosexual. It started as an institution of liberation. Now we've turned on ourselves, become our own oppressors."

It's a sad, classic battle. There always is a modicum of tolerance for the flashy, flamboyant music director if a church wants its choir to rock the rafters. No one questions the lives of the unmarried deacons. When a member of the congregation begins wasting away in his suits, his skin spotted with lesions, whispers declare that he's "taken sick." No one says the word "AIDS." In the mainstream black church, homosexuality does not exist.

"The black church is an institute based on sheer hypocrisy instead of love," says Rev. Campbell. "I've been in the clergy since I was 18, and I've got colleagues, good friends of mine, who are still in the closet, dedicated to a church that denies them. Remember when white folks used the Bible to justify slavery? Thelma Sullivan is using it to justify homophobia."

"My congregation evolved because we're sick and tired of supporting the black community and not getting anything back. I'm tired of praying at the deathbeds of young men whose parents have deserted them. Young gays need self-esteem, some kind of spiritual sense of who they are, of God, of what life is about. As far as Thelma Sullivan is concerned, that's a service the black community can do without."

Sullivan, however, stands firm. "I love the homosexual person just like I love the heterosexual person," she says. "This is based purely on the Bible and my Christian beliefs."

The Tree of Life is examining its legal options and Rev. Campbell vows to write to everyone listed in the New England Black Pages to let them know that the publisher and publication are not gay-friendly.

"If the Black Pages was a private publication, if she paid all the money and didn't solicit the public, she'd have the right to exclude us. If it's a secular publication offered to the public, she should separate her religious beliefs from her profession. She's so adamant and closed-minded it scares me."

Bad news for Thelma Sullivan: Rev. Campbell's Sunday sermon was sparked by the Biblical quote, "Until justice rolls down like water, and right like a mighty stream, we cannot turn around."

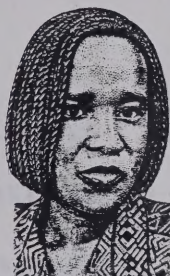


...the water, and  
...of the Bible;  
...Camp-  
...the water, and  
...of the Bible;  
...Camp-  
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...Camp-



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Redefined Faith  
Unity Fellowship Church  
presents

*The 1996 Kickoff*  
of



*Nourishment For The Mind, Body & Soul*

*Featuring*

**Tony Daniels**

**with**

**A**

**Host of Surprise  
Guests!**

*Join us as  
the spiritual  
contributions of  
to the African  
gay, bisexual, or*

*we explore  
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**Sunday, January 21, 1996, 4:00 pm**  
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# **FRANKLIN ABBOTT, LCSW**

1904 Monroe Drive, N.E. • Suite 120 • Atlanta, Georgia 30324 • USA • (404) 874-8294

## **FIRST FRIDAY SEMINARS READING LIST**

### **GAY SPIRITUALITY**

GAY SPIRIT, MARK THOMPSON, ST. MARTIN'S.  
GAY SOUL, MARK THOMPSON, HARPER COLLINS.  
QUEER SPIRITS, WILL ROSCO, BEACON.  
BLOSSOM OF BONE, RANDY CONNER, HARPER COLLINS.  
THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY HAY, STUART TIMMONS, ALYSON.

### **GAY PSYCHOLOGY**

BEING HOMOSEXUAL, RICHARD ISAY, AVON.  
LOVING SOMEONE GAY, DON CLARK, CELESTIAL ARTS.

### **MEN AND MASCULINITY**

NEW MEN, NEW MINDS: BREAKING MALE TRADITION, FRANKLIN ABBOTT, CROSSING PR.  
MEN AND INTIMACY, FRANKLIN ABBOTT, CROSSING PRESS.  
BOYHOOD: GROWING UP MALE, FRANKLIN ABBOTT, CROSSING PRESS.

### **POETRY AND FICTION**

POETS: JAMES BROUGHTON, EDWARD FIELD, ESSEX HEMPHILL, ASSOTTO SAINT...  
WRITERS: JAMES BALDWIN, FELICE PICANO, MARY RENAULT, EDMUND WHITE...

### **OLD MASTERS**

EDWARD CARPENTER, CAVAFY, LANGSTON HUGHES, LORCA, RUMI, WHITMAN, WILDE.

### **THREE HELPFUL GENERAL BOOKS**

THE ARTIST'S WAY, JULIA CAMERON, TARCHER.  
CARE OF THE SOUL, THOMAS MOORE, HARPER COLLINS.  
TRUTH OR DARE, STARHAWK, HARPER COLLINS.

ALSO CONSIDER A SUBSCRIPTION TO RFD  
P.O. BOX 68, LIBERTY, TN. 37095.  
\$20 FOR 4 ISSUES (1 YEAR).

BOOKS ON THE LIST ARE OFTEN AVAILABLE THROUGH PUBLIC AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES. TO PURCHASE THEM TRY OUTWRITE BOOKSTORE OR CHARIS BOOKS.





VENUS2

ANDROGNY- A BALLET

I've taken the poetic license to use the word in a more general and conceptual term, and framework so that it can represent all of the aspects of the ballet.

#1

This piece is not just about men who look like women, women who look like men, or people who are genderless. It's any two stereotypical opposites that have become a hybrid of each other. Someone who's black and someone who's white, someone who's tall and someone who's short, someone who's running for the the president of the U.S.A., and someone who runs the mafia. To me it's an understanding, "androgynist", the term is centered around understanding someone who may be a little different than you. Allowing people to be who they need to be, so they can be happy, and make their own contributions to society. This piece is about communicating, objectivity, sharing, and the fostering of human relationships.

#2

Alvin Ailey, because of the obstacles he overcame, (mainly racism) he was a pioneer who endured through adversity and conflict, both personally and professionally. Having studied there and danced with the company, I was given a chance to grow and expand artistically, with some of the most talented and professionally inspiring dancers in the world. I am very grateful to the excellence Mr. Ailey exposed me to at such a young age.

But there were others; Donald Byrd, Louis Johnson, Walter Ramsey and a few others who were incredibly talented, and did not allow racism to stifle their creativity.

#3

I would have to say that would be me.

I don't believe you can inspire or motivate anyone else, unless you can create that same effect for you. I inspire me! You have to have something for yourself first before you can share it with anyone else. You cannot have relationships where you live vicariously through someone else, and expect the relationship to be successful, professionally, romantic, or platonic.

If you don't have something that is uniquely yours, that only you can give to someone else, then you're really not giving your life any meaning.

You have to start within, and then you can move outward and inspire others.

#4

It's a philosophy; it represents the diaspora of different views. The infinite nature of myself and the dancers that come under the COLORS, umbrella. COLORS, is about exploration, not limiting oneself. It's important to incorporate any and all cultures that make up who you are in your work, if for no other reason for the humanistic benefits. There's nothing wrong with representing someone else or an alternative point of view from your own, that helps you with objectivity, as well as make you a better person.

Performing for a 90's audience requires you to do work that is about issues that are prevalent to them and provocative enough to make them think. They need something they can relate to and hold on to as well. Art can be so much more than just fantasy; more than "The Nutcracker". COLORS represents that as well.





#5

Echoed was my first ballet as a artistic director.

This piece is about mixing fantasy with reality.

I connected the life I had and the way that I came to be the person that I am, with the life that I wished I could have had, and the kind of person I wished I could be now.

Echoed is about the pursuit of your dreams, going after what you want in life, doing it for yourself. There is a line from the CD, Few and Far Between, by 10,000 Maniacs, that sums it up; You're never be more than alive, you're do more than survive ,until you expect it. That line is so true.

If you don't ever feel that you're going to do any better, then you're always going to be awestruck by the accomplishments of others. Placing those accomplishments completely out of your personal reach.

If you can dream it you can become it. Go after your dreams, whatever those things are. If it's publishing your own magazine, starting your own dance company go after it. Don't sit around having conversations about what you could have done. Make things happen for yourself.

#7

With each project I always try to improve the work.

Pinnacle seems to suggest the highpoint or climax of your career, and I don't think I am there yet. I'm still very young and very enthusiastic about my work, and I don't think my pinnacle will come for some time. I am really new at exploring my avenues in choreography, so each new thing I do, each new project actually becomes my pinnacle. In whatever capacity I'm working in; dancer, choreographer, artistic director, etc.. I've not yet experienced a point in my work that I could not go higher than that point.

#8

She's my right hand. She runs rehearsals when I'm not there, and she is a fabulous actress, so she helps the dancers bring emotion to the extremely physical demanding work we perform. She gets the dancers to become the movement as opposed to just technically doing the moves. This helps the audience to see the dancers passion for the dance, which is important, because if the dancers aren't feeling and don't express it, then the audience won't get it.

Her acting ability and her maturity are her greatest assets. I'm working with her to get her directing skills up to where they need to be. We also share a lot of the same beliefs and philosophies on creativity and artistic impression, that helps us keep the vision for the company focused.

#9

A heightened respect for others and increased self worth.

It's ok to be who I am and it's ok for you to be who you are.

Breathe and enjoy.

